



PRESS RELEASE

*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

Post Office Box 600
200 West Forsyth Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/232-2682
904/232-2620 (Fax)

80 North Hughey Avenue,
Room 201
Orlando, Florida 32801
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (Fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2002

FBI ARRESTS TAMPA MAN FOR IMPERSONATING AN FBI AGENT

Eris Bruno, a Haitian National, age 33, was arrested today by the FBI.

In September of 2002, an arrest warrant was issued in the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, Fort Myers Division following the return of an indictment which alleged that Bruno represented himself as an FBI Agent and solicited money in exchange for obtaining INS documentation to include work permits, Green Cards and other official documents for three Haitian families residing in the Fort Myers area. In addition, Bruno, for a fee, promised to legally bring family member(s) of the victims into the United States. It is further alleged Bruno defrauded the victims of more than \$24,000.

Bruno was taken into custody by federal agents and was turned over to the United States Marshals Service for processing and custody. Bruno will be afforded an Initial Appearance before a United States Magistrate Judge.

A felony indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.